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STI PRODUCT TITLE: Genetics and Common Disorders: Implications for Primary Care and Public Health Providers

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We developed this program for primary care providers (PCPs) and public health professionals (PHPs) who are interested in increasing their understanding of the genetics of common chronic diseases and of the implications of genetics and genomics for their fields. The program differs from virtually all previous educational efforts in genetics for health professionals in that it focuses on the genetics of common chronic disease and on the broad principles that emerge when one views disease from the perspectives of variation and individuality, which are at the heart of thinking genetically. The CD-ROM introduces users to content that will improve their understanding of topics such as:

- A framework for genetics and common disease;
- Basic information on genetics, genomics, genetic medicine, and public health genetics, all in the context of common chronic disease;
- The status of research on genetic contributions to specific common diseases, including a review of research methods;
- Genetic/environmental interaction as the new “central dogma” of public health genetics;
- The importance of taking and analyzing a family history;
- The likely impact of potential gene discovery and genetic testing on genetic counseling and risk assessment and on the practices of PCPs and PHPs;
- Stratification of populations into low-, moderate-, and high-risk categories;
- The potential role of PCPs and PHPs in identifying high-risk individuals and families, in providing limited genetics services, and in referring to clinical genetics specialists; the potential for standard referral algorithms;
- Implications of genetic insights for diagnosis and treatment;
- Ethical, legal, and social issues that arise from genetic testing for common chronic diseases; and
- Specific prevention strategies based on understanding of genetics and genetic/environmental interactions.

The interactive content – developed by experts in genetics, primary care, and public health – is organized around two case studies designed to appeal to primary care providers (thrombophilia) and public health professionals (development of a screening program for colorectal cancer).

NCHPEG has distributed more than 10,000 copies of the CD-ROM to NCHPEG member organizations and to other organizations and individuals in response to requests. The program also is available at [www.nchpeg.org](http://www.nchpeg.org), or from NCHPEG, at 3260 West Joppa Road, Lutherville, Maryland.